

## *Col 1.22—Our Reconciliation to God by Christ*

### **The fact of our reconciliation to God**

- I. Paul states it as a plain, irrefutable, gospel truth: “And you, he has now reconciled.” Believers in Jesus Christ are definitively at peace with God, Rom 5.1. Whatever we were before (v.21), we are now reconciled to God, and God to us, by faith in Jesus Christ, for Christ Himself is our peace, Eph 2.14. Our past alienation has been replaced by a present—and permanent—reconciliation.
- II. But though this is the message of the gospel of God who cannot lie (Num 23.19), yet we struggle to rest in it.
  - A. Therefore consider some evidences of your reconciliation:
    1. Do you love God? Then you’re reconciled to Him, because you can’t love God unless He first loved you, 1Jn 4.19.
    2. Is your treasure in heaven with God? Then you’re reconciled to God, because Jesus says wherever your treasure is, there your heart is also, Mt 6.21.
    3. Do you live for God? Then you’re reconciled to God because those whom He saves He sanctifies, Eph 2.10.
- III. If you’re lovers of God, prizers of His Son Jesus, and those who for His glory, then you’re reconciled to Him.
  - A. Your sins are forgiven and will never accuse you, Rom 8.1; 6.23.
  - B. You’re acceptable to God in Christ and stand immovably in His eternal favor, Eph 1.6; Rom 5.1.
  - C. You’re in possession of a perfect righteousness, Rom 10.4; 3.24. —Can you not find your greatest joy in this truth!?

### **The means of our reconciliation to God**

- I. It is by the person and work of Jesus His Son, Jn 3.16; 2Cor 5.17-21.
  - A. God the Father was in and by God the Son doing all that was necessary to reconcile you to Himself, Gal 2.20; Rom 8.32; Heb 10.7; Gen 3.15.
- II. Read the Apostle’s exact words: “And you, he has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death.”

- A. We’re to fix our attention on the costly price that was paid to reconcile us to God. God’s only Son had to die.
- B. How great is His love for you! How vile is your sin! 1Pet 3.18; Heb 9.26; Rom 8.3.

### **The purpose of our reconciliation to God**

- I. We have been reconciled by Christ in order that we might be presented holy and above reproach before God.
  - A. Our reconciliation by Christ effected more than our justification before God.
    1. It includes our participation in the holiness of God. Christ died to make us holy, Tit 2.11-14; Lk 1.74-75.
  - B. We have a complete salvation by a complete Saviour, a full reconciliation by a full redemption.
    1. Ours is a reconciliation that effects peace with God as well as likeness to God because ours is a Saviour who saves to the uttermost, Heb 7.25.
  - C. This is a gospel you can trust, a gospel you can rest your eternal souls upon.
    1. Moreover, this is the only gospel by which you can be reconciled to God, 2Cor 5.18-21. Unless you have your reconciliation to God by Christ, you’re still alienated from God and under His wrath, v. 21; Eph 2.1-3, 12.
    2. Will you heed God’s call to be reconciled to Him by Christ or will you willfully continue in your alienation (Acts 17.30-31)?
  - D. Let all who know the Son of God and reconciliation to the Father by Him rest comfortably upon the testimony of v. 22.
    1. Rejoice in your God and give thanks for your Saviour.
    2. Furthermore, since you enjoy this reconciliation by Christ so freely, see that you freely honor Him with the holiness for which He reconciled you, 1Pet 1.13-19.